5

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Notice of Allowability	10/828,890	BAUDISCH ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Nicholas S. Ulrich	2173	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to *Remarks filed 6/08/2007*.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *1-6, 8, 9, 11-16, 18-26, 28, 29 and 31-33*.

3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some*   c) ☐ None of the:

      1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

      3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

    (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

      1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.

    (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of

      Paper No./Mail Date _____.

    Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____

4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1.   This office action is in response to the Applicants amendments submitted on
6/08/2007.

2.   Claims 1-6, 8, 9, 11-16, 18-26, 28, 29, and 31-33 are pending.

3.   Claims 1, 5, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 21, 25, 28, 29, 31, 32, and 33 are
amended.

4.   Claims 7, 10, 17, 27, and 30 are cancelled.

5.   Claims 1-6, 8, 9, 11-16, 18-26, 28, 29, and 31-33 are allowed.

6.   An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes
and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided
by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be
submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

7.   Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview
with Clint Feekes on 8/15/2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the **CLAIMS:**

Claim 1, **replace** "*alternatively if the total amount of resistance is not larger than
the projected change in pointer location, determining that the adjustment amount equals
the total amount of resistance*" **with** "alternatively if the total amount of resistance is not

larger than the projected change in pointer location, determining the adjustment amount by calculating the point on a directional friction curve where the projected pointer movement equals the area under the directional friction curve".

Claim 21, **replace** "*alternatively if the total amount of resistance is not larger than the projected change in pointer location, determining that the adjustment amount equals the total amount of resistance*" **with** "alternatively if the total amount of resistance is not larger than the projected change in pointer location, determining the adjustment amount by calculating the point on a directional friction curve where the projected pointer movement equals the area under the directional friction curve".

Response to Arguments

8.   Applicant's arguments, see Remarks, filed 6/08/2007, with respect to Double Patenting have been fully considered and are persuasive. The Double Patenting rejection of claim 1 has been withdrawn.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

9.   The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The Examiner has carefully considered all claims 1-6, 8, 9, 11-16, 18-26, 28, 29, and 31-33.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

The current invention is directed to a methods and a computer program for assisting users in aligning objects displayed on a graphical user interface using a resistance applied to the pointer.

Independent claims 1, 14, and 21, recite (A) obtaining the current and projected coordinate positions of the pointer, (B) determining if the pointer will intersect an alignment area, (C) and if the pointer intersects an alignment area calculating an adjusted coordinate position for pointer. The independent claims further recite calculating an adjusted coordinate position for the pointer includes: (C1) calculating the coordinate position where the pointer intersects the alignment area and for each directional component in the projected movement of the pointer from the current to the projected coordinate positions, (C2) determining the projected change in pointer location, and (C3) determining an adjustment amount based on the attributes of the alignment area. The independent claims further recite wherein determining an adjustment amount includes: (C3i) calculating the total amount of resistance generated by tile alignment area, if the total amount of resistance is larger than the projected change in pointer location, determining that the adjustment amount equals the total amount of resistance; and alternatively if the total amount of resistance is not larger than the projected change in pointer location, determining the adjustment amount by

calculating the point on a directional friction curve where the projected pointer

movement equals the area under the directional friction curve; and (D) replacing the

projected coordinate position of the pointer with the adjusted coordinate position.

On of the prior art of record, Robertson (US 5596347) teaches elements A, B, C,

C1, C2, C3, and D of independent claims 1, 14, and 21 of the present invention.

However, Robertson fails to disclose element C3i. In contrast, Robertson teaches that

the adjustment amount is determined based on a correction vector or alternatively using

a formula for gravitational attraction. Robertson does not discuss calculating the point

on a directional friction curve where the projected pointer movement equals the area

under the directional friction curve. In another embodiment, Robertson teaches

assisting users in aligning objects by altering the sensitivity value of the cursor control

device. This teaching is more like the present invention in the fact that the pointer acts

as though there is resistance when crossing alignment areas (Causes the pointer to

slow down when moving across alignment areas). However, Robertson again fails to

disclose element C3i. Robertson teaches that the adjustment amount of the pointer is

based on predetermined sensitivity values selected by the user.

Another prior art of record, Barry (US 5786805) discusses similar techniques of

the present invention. Barry discusses using a sticky property when crossing display

windows. Barry is similar to the present invention and Robertson invention because the

sticky property acts the same way as changing the sensitivity value of the pointing

device. However, Barry also fails to disclose element C3i of the present invention. Like

Robertson invention, the sensitivity is based on stored values and not determined based on a directional friction curve.

Another prior art of record, Miller (US 5508717) discusses similar techniques of the present invention. Miller teaches a method where the pointer is slowed down in control areas based on two control factors M and N. M is the speed of the cursor as it enters the control area and N is predetermined fractional value of M. Therefore the adjustment amount is not based on a directional friction curve as discussed in the present invention.

While the idea of helping users align objects by slowing the pointer down is well known in the art, the techniques discussed in the present invention are not identified in the prior art. Particularly element C3i where a directional friction curve is used to determine the amount to adjust the pointer movement. Thus, the prior art of record neither render nor anticipate the claimed invention. Therefore, all pending claims 1-6, 8, 9, 11-16, 18-26, 28, 29, and 31-33 are allowed.

Conclusion

10.   Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."
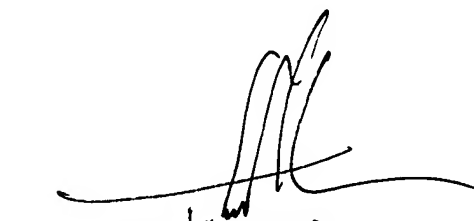
11.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nicholas S. Ulrich whose telephone number is 571-270-1397. The examiner can normally be reached on M-TH 9:00 - 5:00 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca can be reached on 571-272-4048. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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